

# BIBLE TRACTS, INC

## Where Are You Standing?

The author of a devotional wrote this. *“A man standing next to Niagara Falls does not ask where to find water.”* The sound of the availability of water would be deafening in his ears. The 600,000 gallons of water going over the falls each second

would make that question foolish. Where he was standing made all the difference. Have you given thought recently to where you are standing?

The story of feeding the 5,000 is a staple for all of us. It is a fun story to teach children and for challenging adults. The disciples were standing next to Jesus, the *“Niagara Falls”* of supply. Yet, they stood there wondering how they could feed the crowd.

### THE ‘WHERE’ QUESTION

All four gospels record this feeding story (Mt.14: 15-21; Mk.6: 35-44; Lk.9: 12-17; Jn.6: 4-14). Only in John do we find this question. *“Whence (where) shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”* The text says that Jesus was proving (scrutinizing, measuring) Philip and all the men. He was prov-

ing them with a *“where”* question.

Recently I spoke at a men’s conference. Three churches represented there had no pastor. During a Q & A session the question was asked about where small churches can go to find pastors. Another speaker responded well.

In quiet yet bold words he said, *“You have a Shepherd. Yes, every church needs an under-shepherd, but you have forgotten that you already have a Shepherd.”* Then he quoted Psalm 23. A deacon of one of the churches later told me that those were the most powerful words he heard all day. He had forgotten where his church was standing. He planned to go back home and teach through that psalm.

### THE ‘WE’ QUESTION

Jesus’ question said *“we”*, not *“you”*. Where shall *we* go to buy bread? He included Himself. Immediately, though, the disciples jump to the how issue. The first thing they do is report on the check book balance for Messiah Ministry Inc.

The *“how”* issue was not unimportant. It will have to be looked at. But these future global gospel movers and shakers were not ready for the *“how”*. Answering that first requires knowing where you are standing and remembering Jesus said *“we”*.



#### Inside this issue:

Where Are You Standing	1, 2
Memorials	3
Letters from friends	3
Tract Display	4



Pastor Mark Smith,  
Executive Director

Jesus said “we”. Just prior to all this the disciples had watched Jesus do miracles. The wonder of these so caught their attention that they did not think about the location of The Supplier. In the training of the twelve, Jesus knew they would need a grip on “where” they stood and a conscious awareness of Who stood next to them. The task of global gospel ministry would be a “we” task.

### **THE ‘WHAT’ STATEMENT**

Matthew records this pithy statement. “Bring them hither to Me.” This is a “what” statement. Jesus tells them what to do. It was a logistics task. All were about to see the great “Niagara Falls” Supplier solve the unsolvable, but the solution became clear only after the work of bringing the hungry crowd to Jesus.

I was on the phone recently with a desperate dad. He was struggling over custody issues with the mother of their children. He is a believer; she is not. She has custody and wants to hinder the children from learning about Jesus. The dad was desperate.

Dads are fixers. They immediately run to logical issues like needed tools and the cost. I urged the dad to wait three days. During those days he was to bring the children to Jesus. I know this dad prays multiple times each day for his children. Praying was not new, but the situation was. Steps would need to be taken soon, but they could only be known after bringing all involved to Jesus. I assigned him a different way to pray.

### **THE WORDS STATED**

I have often wondered what Jesus actually said in His prayer. I have an idea as to why that prayer was not recorded, but I wish it was. Evidently what we most need to know are these two things: Jesus thanked His Father for the food (Jn.6:11) and He blessed the food (Lk.9:16).

Jesus expressed gratitude for what was in His hands. If His Father gave this amount it must have been His perfect gift. He also blessed the food. He eulogized it, declaring its value and importance. There was not much to eulogize, but, none the less, Jesus did.

Let me fast forward to a mountain in Galilee. Jesus is again with His disciples. Rather than there being 5,000 in view, this day the entire world was set before them. It must be fed. It was not The Messiah Ministry Inc. any more, it would now be The Church Inc.

No one checked the bank account. No one checked the resources. All eyes were on Jesus. With authority and deliberateness He said, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt.28:19).

Dear soul winner, dear pastor, dear missionary, dear parent - look where you are standing! You are in a “we” ministry. The resources you possess are perfect. Now, before you do anything else, bring your assigned “crowd” to Jesus. You are standing next to the “Niagara Falls” of supply and His name is Jesus.

## **Bible Tracts, Inc. and Bible Tract Echoes**

Executive Director: **Mark Smith**

Board of Directors: **Ryan Banman, Darrell Beernink, Chad Buhman, Troy Crain,**

**Ken Devore, Joey Watt, and Ralph Wingate, Jr.**

## Sharing from Around the World



“My older brother has been detained for a crime committed. He received a tract from a Pastor who visited the jail-house. My brother said if he had not ended up where he was, he didn't think he would have ever “truly” been saved and know Jesus for Whom He really is.”

Missouri

“Recently our office was filled with several people reading several copies of your tracts. There was no space in the office for anyone to walk so we had to create additional space for chairs and tables outside for many others to sit and read your tracts. So in the name of Jesus Christ, I bless you.”

Nigeria

“I praise God for the availability you make possible for God's Word to go out. I place your tracts in all my mailings, praying some one will read and see their need of Jesus and salvation with the blessing of forgiveness and eternal life with Him.”

Pennsylvania

“Thanks for helping me in my tract ministry by sending gospel tracts. I post out about fifty letters at one time to persons whose address I get from our phone directory and people who give me names of persons working with them in their work places. Thanks again and may the Lord continue to bless your ministry.”

West Indies

## Those Listening In

“...your radio broadcasts are so helpful. Pastor Mark's commentary is always such a blessing!”

Wisconsin

“I listen to the radio program every morning on my way to work. Thank you. Your program helped get me interested in Jesus.”

unknown

“Thank you for working hard to produce the radio program. I think you say more in ten minutes than most pastors say in thirty minutes. You are a gem in a pile of coal.”

South Dakota

“I often listen to your program as I travel to work. You're a wonderful preacher/teacher and I commend you for delivering undiluted TRUTH.”

Wisconsin



**Pastor Mark is now teaching through Leviticus, chapter by chapter, on the radio.**

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In Memory of:

Melody Hoffman Whitehouse  
 Clair Saliers  
 Myrldene Buswell  
 Jeanne Dovel  
 Frances Hayworth  
 Christine Oftedahl  
 Becky Pearson  
 Erma Bernhard  
 Marion Hyndman  
 Dottie Mattoon  
 Dr. William Snook

### Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kamp  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Heckman  
 Mrs. Esther Jingst  
 Mr & Mrs Windell Kessinger  
 Mr & Mrs Jerry Monical  
 Rev & Mrs Donald Oftedahl  
 Mrs. Dawn Lentz  
 Mr & Mrs Bob McCauley  
 Pastor John Hyndman  
 Mr & Mrs Vern Ringenberg  
 Mrs. Bernadyne Snook

## BIBLE TRACTS, INC.

PO Box 188  
Bloomington, IL 61702-0188

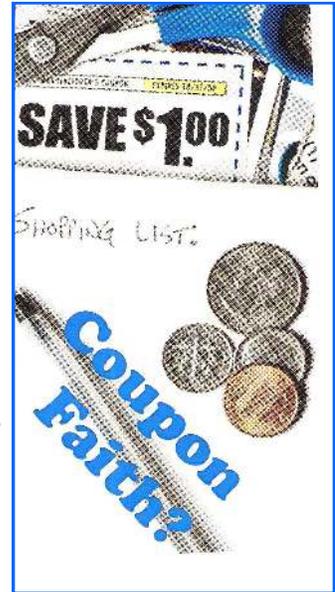
Phone: 309-828-6888  
Fax: 309-828-0573  
E-mail: [info@bibletractsinc.org](mailto:info@bibletractsinc.org)

**Find us on  
the web:**

**[bibletractsinc.org](http://bibletractsinc.org)**

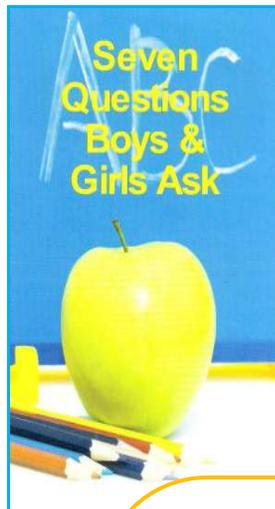
### INTRO STATEMENTS FOR PASSING OUT "Coupon Faith?":

- 1) Coupons save money, read this to save your soul.
- 2) Believe in a piece of paper to save your money; believe in God's Son to save your soul.



### INTRO STATEMENTS FOR PASSING OUT "Seven Questions Boys and Girls Ask":

- 1) Use this tract to answer some of the "Why" questions your child asks.
- 2) Are your children curious - this will help answer their questions.



### MAJOR NEEDS AT BTI

**INCOME SLUMP :** While the American economy is up, ours is down. Pray for a strong second half of 2018.

**OFFICE PERSONNEL:** Pray we find the particular office worker needed with the right skills and ministry heart.

### PAKISTAN OUTREACH

*During these summer months our co-workers in Pakistan are again having a major evangelistic thrust.*

*Please pray for their safety and for another great harvest of souls.*

### INTRO STATEMENTS FOR PASSING OUT "How Can a Person be a Way?":

- 1) Do you know why firemen don't always use doors?
- 2) Have you been rescued by anyone?

